

Attorney Docket No. 24648

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

1)BRUNELOT, Pierre, 2)LACOMBE, Jacques, 3)MERLIN, Serge,  
4)ROUX, Patrice, 5)THIEBAUT, Valérie, 6)CHOI, Kwan-Sik, 7)SONG, Myung-Jae

International Application No. PCT/FR99/02977

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED

International Filing Date: 01 December 1999 (01.12.99)

Filed: May 24, 2001

For: **METHOD AND APARATUS FOR INCINERATING AND VITRIFYING WASTE, IN  
PARTICULAR RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examining on the merits and calculating the filing fee for the national phase application filed herewith, please enter the following amendments:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the Article 34 annexed claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15 of the International Preliminary Examination Report as per attached with this preliminary amendment.

**REMARKS**

The above amendments have been made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims and to conform them to U.S. practice. No new matter has been added. Pursuant to the new rules implementing the AIPA, a clean copy of the amended claims and a marked-up copy of the claims are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC**

By: 

Gary M. Nath

Registration No. 26,965

Customer no. 20529

Date: May 24, 2001

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

1030<sup>th</sup> Street, NW - 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Washington, D.C. 20005

GMN/dd:AMENDpreml.AIPA